

SENATE RESOLUTION 83

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor the Tennessee State Museum on the occasion of its eighty-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are pleased to commend those exemplary institutions that, through an abiding commitment to excellence, strive to preserve Tennessee's history for future generations; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable institution is the Tennessee State Museum, which will celebrate its eighty-fifth anniversary in May 2022; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Tennessee State Museum is to procure, preserve, exhibit, and interpret objects that relate to the social, political, economic, and cultural history of Tennessee and Tennesseans, and to provide exhibitions for the educational and cultural enrichment of the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, located on the corner of Rosa L. Parks Boulevard and Jefferson Street at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park in Nashville, the Tennessee State Museum can trace its roots back to a museum opened on the Nashville public square in 1817 by a portrait artist, Ralph E.W. Earl. A young boy who visited that museum in 1823 wrote home that he had seen a life-size painting of then General Andrew Jackson; that same painting is now part of the Tennessee State Museum's permanent collection; and

WHEREAS, in 1937, the General Assembly created a State museum to consolidate World War I mementoes and other collections from the State, the Tennessee Historical Society, and other groups; this museum was located in the lower level of the War Memorial Building until it was moved into the James K. Polk Center in 1981, where it remained for more than thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Governor Bill Haslam proposed a new home for the museum on the northwest corner of the Bicentennial Mall in Nashville; the General Assembly appropriated \$120 million to build the museum, with the additional funding to complete the project to be raised in private contributions; and

WHEREAS, the new Tennessee State Museum, encompassing 137,000 square feet of administration and gallery space, celebrated its grand opening on October 4, 2018; and

WHEREAS, with free admission and open to the public six days a week, the Tennessee State Museum welcomes visitors from around the world to experience Tennessee history, art, and culture from the State's natural history beginnings through the present day; and

WHEREAS, for eighty-five years, the Tennessee State Museum has provided an educational and cultural experience that has enriched the lives of generations of citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the Tennessee State Museum on the occasion of its eighty-fifth anniversary, commend its administration and staff for their meritorious service to the good people of Tennessee, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in preserving and sharing the history and heritage of this great State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.